

Chapter 26

Program Agreements/AIMS

The NPA encourages its scientists to submit proposals of high quality and merit that support the mission of ARS, add value to the research program, and supplement without detracting from the programs of the scientist and the Research Unit performing the work.

The scientist will contact the Area Agreements Office for procedural guidance.

Acronyms: See [Chapter 22](#) for a comprehensive list of commonly used acronyms.

References: [NPA PM-03-001](#) – Performance Reports for Cooperative Agreements
[NPA PM-06-003](#) – ARS-425, Authorization to Apply For and Use Funds from Outside Sources

Cross References: [Chapter 16](#) – Agricultural Research Information System (ARIS)

Web Sites: **Grants and Agreements**
<http://www.ars.usda.gov/Main/docs.htm?docid=16581>
ARIS Online Handbook
<http://www.npstaff.ars.usda.gov/ARIS/Manual/>

Points of Contact:

Incoming Agreement Inquiries

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Instrument Selection Criteria Chart/Northern Plains Area, Extramural Agreements Section

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	Purpose	Relationship/Benefit to ARS Programs	ARS Involvement during Performance
Use a Contract When:	Acquiring Service or Property	Direct Benefit/Use	No Involvement
Use a Project Grant When:	Transferring Anything of Value	To Support or Stimulate a Public Purpose	No Involvement
Use an Assistance Type Cooperative Agreement (ACTA) When:	Transferring Anything of Value	To Support or Stimulate a Public Purpose	Substantial Involvement
Use a Specific Cooperative Agreement (SCA) When:	ARS is Paying and Mutual Interest and Contributions toward Research Effort exists	Direct Benefit to ARS in-house research	Substantial Involvement
Use a Research Support Agreement (RSA) When:	Procuring Service/Supplies Directly from a College or University	Direct Benefit to ARS in-house research	Substantial Involvement
Use a Non-Funded Cooperative Agreement (NFCA) When:	Describing Research Work with No Obligation of Funds	Direct Benefit to ARS in-house research	Substantial Involvement
Use a Technology Transfer Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) When:	Receiving Funds under Federal Technology Transfer Act	Direct Benefit to ARS in-house research	Substantial Involvement
Use a Reimbursable or Trust Fund Agreement When:	ARS Receives Funds to Perform Research Work	Direct Benefit to ARS in-house research	Substantial Involvement

Each project involving cooperation must be assessed individually to ascertain the agreement instrument most appropriate for the project.